

S' M -281
LOVE AND CHARITY SOCIETY HALL
Abell
Private

1890's

The Love and Charity Society was a beneficial society founded by Luke Clark, members of the Jameson family and other local Negro Episcopalians in 1884. They first met in a small log house, and in the early 1890's built this handsome hall with lovely gingerbread finishings. The grounds were used for outdoor festivities, the principal one being the annual celebration of Emancipation Day. For over fifty years Clem Dyson has been President of the Society. The Abell School is located nearby on land which the club members helped to purchase.

Also see S' M -282.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM - 281
MAGI # 1902815610

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Love and Charity Social Club Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South side of Abell Rd., 200 yards east of its jct. with
Oakley Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Abell

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER Abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Love and Charity Social Club

Telephone #: 301-769-3750

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Clem Dyson, Bushwood, Md.

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: 109/388 and 83/483

Folio #: Map 46, P. 319 and
P. 131

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This long handsome building runs parallel to Abell Rd. (east-west). It consists of two back to back blocks, the east one being the social hall with its entranceway in its gable end, and the rear block (west) being the residence of the caretaker. Both are one story.

The social hall is four long bays in length. Its facade is five narrow bays in width: two doors with three windows between them. The facade is sheltered by a shed porch supported by unturned posts. The structural skeleton is balloon frame, and the cladding is painted gray. The most distinctive feature of the building are the decorative fixtures on the facade. The verge boards along the eaves have been cut into delicate patterns and are capped by a decorative filial at the peak. In the center of the gable wall is a small, circular window, all of these features having been painted in a fresh coat of white paint, giving a sharp appearance to the building.

The floor plan is of an aisled hall with a large seating area and stage. The aisles have brackets and scrollwork.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES 1880's or 90's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to local oral informants -- Clem Dyson, Bernice Clark Sherman, and Dickerson Collins -- this building once served as the gathering place for members of the Love and Charity Social Club, a group formed by Negro members of the Episcopal Church. That group was headed by Luke Clark, the Negro waterman and farmer in Abell whose house has been recorded in this survey. According to informants, theatrical productions and other forms of tentertainment were put on there before the days of radio and television. The fine work that went into designing the interior gives evidence of the importance that the community gave to such activities.

According to oral informants, the most important occasion was the celebration of Emancipation Day. The community gathered at the home of Luke Clark att about a mile from the Social Club Hall and marched in procession to this site, with Luke Clark leading the parade and wearing a long sword, perhaps a trophy from the Civil War. A barbecue and dance was then held here for the rest of the day.

The principal significance of this building is that it represents the social life of the historical black community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

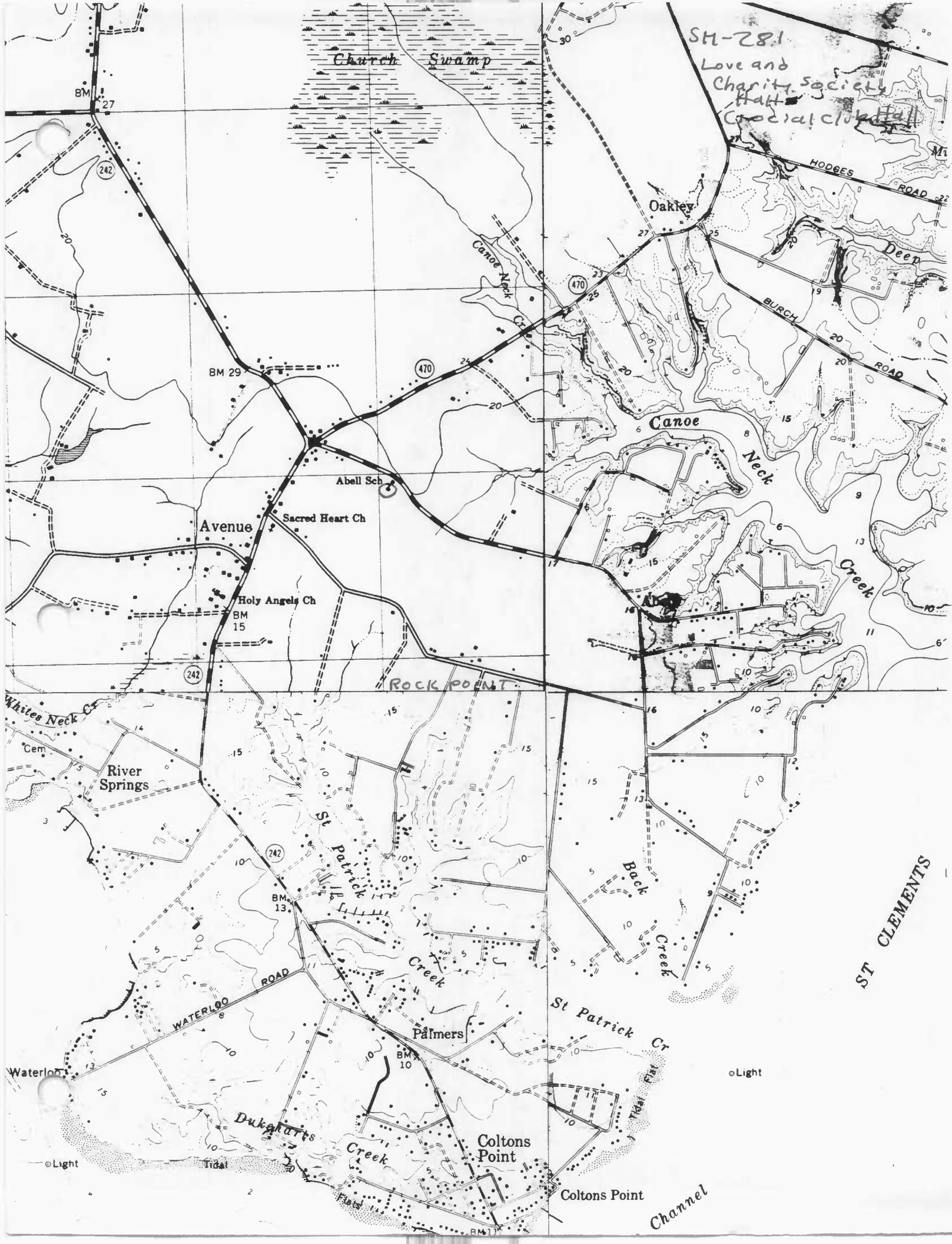
STATE

Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438





SM-281

Love and Charity Social Club Hou.
STMA 281

Aben, Md.

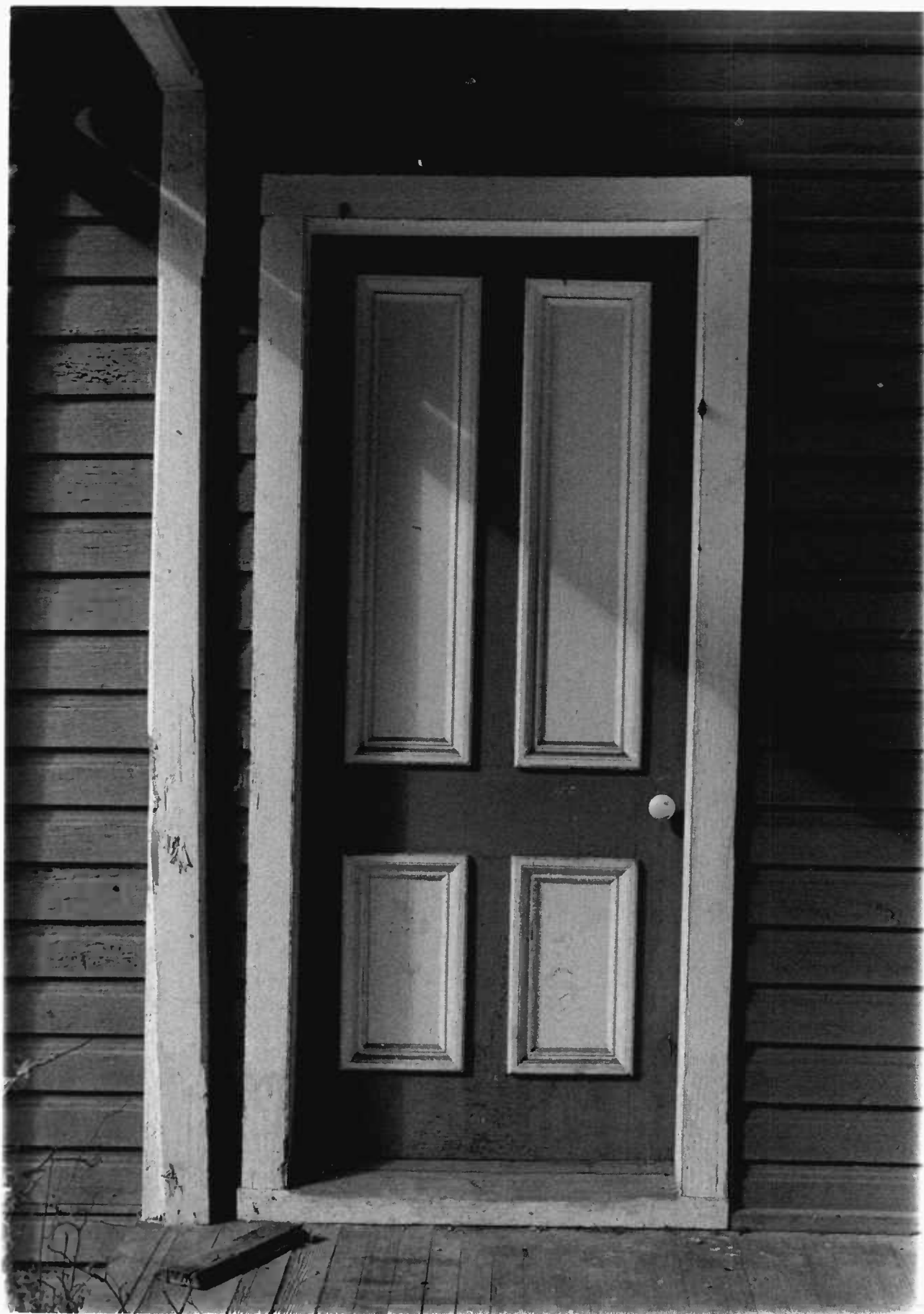
East gable end (facade)

GWM — 4/77

MHT



Love and Charity Social Club Hall
STMA 281
Abell, Md.
Southeast View
GWM — 4/77



SM-281

Love and Charity Social Club Hall
STMA 281

Abell, Md.

Door

GWM — 4/77



Love and Charity Social Club Hall
STMA 281
Abell, Md.
Window
GWM — 4/77